

REMARKS

This Response is in reply to the final Office Action mailed on November 30, 2004. Claims 1, 3-8, 13, 15, and 16 are pending in the application. Claims 9, 11 and 12 have been canceled. Claims 2, 10, and 14 were previously canceled. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 1 and 3-8 are allowed. No new matter has been added. Entry and consideration of the amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Telephone Interview

In a telephone interview with Examiner William Rivera on April 27, 2005, Examiner Rivera agreed that claims 13, 15 and 16 were allowable because the claims depend on claims 1, 7 and 8, respectively, which have been indicated as reciting allowable subject matter. Examiner Rivera stated that the rejection of claims 13, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) were an error on his part.

Rejection of claims 9, 11-13, 15, and 16

Claims 9, 11-13, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,055,313) in view of Gay et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,092,966) and Hutzenlaub (U.S. Patent No. 4,117,986). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 9, 11 and 12 have now been canceled. The Examiner indicated that claims 1, 7 and 8 are allowable. Claims 13, 15 and 16 depend on allowable independent claims 1, 7 and 8, respectively. Therefore, by reason of their dependency from allowed independent claims 1, 7, and

8, the Applicant asserts that claims 13, 15, and 16 are also patentable over the cited prior art.

Accordingly, the Applicants assert that claims 13, 15 and 16 are patentable over the cited references. The rejection of claims 9, 11 and 12 is now moot since the claims have been canceled. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

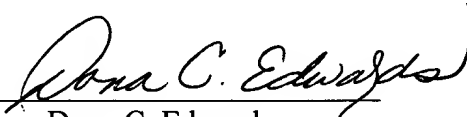
In view of the above amendments to the claims and argument, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome and should be removed. The present application should now be in condition for allowance.

The Applicant notes that there is no indication that the drawings are acceptable. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide the status of the drawings in the next formal communication.

Should any changes to the claims and/or specification be deemed necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

This Response is being filed with a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time. In the event that any other fee is required for the entry of this Response, the Commissioner is hereby specifically authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0518 in the name of Steinberg & Raskin, P.C. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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